FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DARJEELING, THE 12TH JULY 1893.

RESOLUTION.

READ—

The Report on the Census of Bengal taken on the 26th February 1891, by C. J. O'Donnell, Esq., M.A., C.S.

The Report on the Census of the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, by H. F. T. Maguire, Esq., C.S.

The third complete census of the Lower Provinces of Bengal was taken on the night of the 26th February 1891 with entire success, and shows the population of the Provinces within the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, including the Feudatory States, to have been on that date 74,643,366 persons, of whom 37,236,485 were males and 37,406,881 females. The Provincial Superintendent of Census, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell, has now submitted his Report on this great undertaking, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who has perused it with interest, desires to place on record the following observations upon some of the more important points with which it deals.

2. The Report is contained in three volumes, forming numbers III, IV and V of the Imperial Census Series (volumes I and II of the same series being concerned with the Census of Assam). The first of these volumes comprises the Report proper, in the second are given the Imperial Tables, while the last is devoted to statistics of castes and tribes. For statistical purposes the territorial unit in these volumes is the district, but in order to place on record the statistics for smaller areas, the Lieutenant-Governor has caused to be published a selection of the tables showing details for each thana of a district, and the census reports submitted by District Officers are also in course of publication. When these operations are concluded, a mass of statistical information will be available, which cannot fail to be of the greatest utility. The Report itself falls naturally into two parts, viz., Chapters I to V, which describe the proceedings preliminary to the Census and the actual operations undertaken, and Chapters VI to XVI, which give the results and enter into a statistical examination of them.

3. In December 1889, a Census Conference sat at Agra, to which were deputed as delegates from the various provinces of India most of the officers who had conducted the Census of 1881, and as soon as the conclusions and recommendations of that Conference had been published, the preliminary arrangements for the enumeration to take place a year later were set on foot.

Preliminary operations.

4. The first step to be taken was the correction of the two great Registers A, and B, which were originally devised by Mr. Beverley in 1871, and were rightly designated by him as the basis of the whole Census fabric. Of these the first is a register of the survey areas or *mauzas* into which the whole Province is mapped out, and contains lists of the residential villages in each *mauza*: register B, on the other hand, is the converse of register A, and is a register of inhabited villages, with a column to show the survey *mauzas* in which each is situate. The work of completing and correcting these registers occupied the hot weather and rains of 1890, and was carried out almost entirely by police agency. Meanwhile District Officers were busy preparing lists of fitting persons to take up the work of enumerator and supervisor. Each district was divided into a number of charges, usually conterminous with the thanas, each of which was again broken up into circles under supervisors, and these again into blocks, each of which was as far as possible made over to one enumerator. The number of supervisors and enumerators in 1891 was much greater than in 1881, the numbers in the former year being 26,507 and 324,645 as against 13,942 and

207,683 in the latter year: the policy of the Census Superintendent was to work with small blocks and small circles, and this was rendered possible on the present occasion by the permission accorded by Government to utilize the services of police officers, a concession which was almost entirely withheld in 1881: as a matter of fact, the average number of houses in a block was 36 only. Simultaneously with the organisation of the machinery in the mufassal, the translation and preparation of the Census schedules, the "instructions to enumerators" and other forms was going on in Calcutta. These forms were printed in six different languages, viz., English, Bengali, Kaithi-Hindi, Uriya, Nepali-Hindi and the Nagri-Hindi of Chutia Nagpur. The total number of schedules printed was 22,779,507, and of other forms 2,649,198 or a grand total of 25,428,705. The expedient of making up the schedules into books of 60, 30, 20, and 10 schedules each, certainly brought about some economy in the expenditure of forms, and the Superintendent has embodied in his report recommendations for a still further progress in the same direction at the next Census, and has recorded in his office a careful statement showing the number of enumeration books of each size actually used in each thana, which cannot fail to be of use in future.

5. In addition to the arrangements for the ordinary house-to-house census, it also became the duty of the Superintendent to make special arrangements for the enumeration of cantonments, cooly lines and jails, to organise the counting of the moving population on boats and sea-going ships, in railway trains and on roads, besides such special gatherings as fairs and wedding parties, and these were all accomplished with success. The Lieutenant-Governor has read with pleasure that, in this part of his duty, Mr. O'Donnell, like his predecessor in 1881, received willing and valuable assistance from the managers and officials of railways, the agents of steamer companies, and unofficial employers of labour throughout the Province, and Sir Antony MacDonnell gladly takes this opportunity of thanking them for services rendered often at considerable personal inconvenience.

The actual enumeration.

6. As in 1881, the enumeration of the people consisted of two processes, viz., the preliminary record and the final checking. The former operation was carried out by the enumerators at leisure between the 15th January and the 15th February, and thus ample time was allowed for the examination of their work by supervisors and other superior officers; but, as a matter of fact, the first fortnight was chiefly occupied by experiments, and few entries were made in the schedules till after the first of February. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with Mr. O'Donnell that the additions and erasures which are necessarily imposed by too early a preliminary record justify his arguments in favour of a later commencement. In a few special cases, chiefly backward and jungly tracts, like the Tributary States of Orissa and Chutia Nagpur and parts of the non-regulation districts of Bengal, the preliminary counting began earlier, and the final check was not carried out by night. Modified schedules of a much simpler character than those in ordinary use were employed in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong, Hill Tippera and Sikkim.

7. One great step in advance was taken at this Census, which had not before been generally attempted in Bengal, and which in fact formed a third or final process in the completion of the actual enumeration. This was the rough totalling of their enumeration books on the morning of the 27th February by the enumerators who were collected in a central spot for that purpose under the superintendence of their supervisor. Careful arrangements were made for the addition of the block, circle and charge totals so obtained, and in many districts the organisation was so good that the district totals were in the hands of the Magistrate within 48 hours of the actual enumeration. Moreover the general accuracy of the work was so great that between the preliminary provincial total so arrived at, and that which was ascertained at the close of the detailed abstraction, there was only a deficiency of 305,716, or 4 per mille. The most accurate work was done in Cuttack, where the error was only 291 in a population of 1,937,671, and in Rajshahi, where it amounted to 456 in a total of 1,313,336. The variation in 1881, when the preliminary total was compiled in district offices and not by the enumerators, was 9·8 per mille. Mr. O'Donnell recommended that this preliminary abstraction should comprise more than the simple

totals of the sexes, but the Census Commissioner did not sanction the proposal: the recommendation is repeated in the report, but the Lieutenant-Governor does not consider it necessary to pass any orders upon the suggestion, which will doubtless be fully considered when the time comes for making arrangements for the Census of 1901.

The compilation of the tables.

8. The schedule of 1891 demanded practically the same information as that of 1881, but there has been a great difference in the manner in which this information has been combined for the published Census tables. Details of occupation in combination with age were extracted in 1891, but not attempted ten years previously. The heaviest and most vexatious tasks, however, were the extraction of details of education combined with caste, and of marriage combined with age and caste.

9. An entirely new departure was also taken in the establishment of offices at district head-quarters for the abstraction of the figures from the schedules and their subsequent tabulation. In 1881 there were three offices—at Calcutta, at Dinapore, and at Cuttack; the Agra Conference recommended the establishment of an office at the head-quarters of each Division, but the Census Superintendent in 1891, with the powerful support of the Census Commissioner, obtained permission from the Lieutenant-Governor to open offices at the head-quarters of each district. Mr. O'Donnell urges that the experiment has been successful, but the Lieutenant-Governor is unable to accept this opinion without some qualification. It is true that a great deal of the work done by the clerks in the Calcutta offices in 1881 was very bad and entailed much costly checking and correction, but from reports which have reached him since the operations were completed, and from admissions made by Mr. O'Donnell himself, it is manifest to the Lieutenant-Governor that work in several district offices in 1891 was very badly done also. The new plan is certainly much cheaper, since it saves house rent, travelling allowance, freight on schedules, and the deputation of an expensive superior establishment; but, on the other hand, the diffusion of the work renders difficult the exercise of control by the Provincial Superintendent, and—a most important consideration—throws additional labour and responsibility upon the already overworked District Officer. For these reasons, the Lieutenant-Governor, while admitting that Mr. O'Donnell administered the district system as well as it could be done, and while cordially acknowledging the devotion of almost all District Officers in discharging this heavy additional duty, is inclined to think that on a future occasion the experiment of divisional offices under a small separate staff should have a trial.

10. Abstraction, or the transfer of figures from the actual enumeration books to twelve abstracting sheets in which the block was the unit, was commenced everywhere about the 8th of April 1891, and was concluded almost without exception by the 31st July. Tabulation, that is, the transfer of the block totals from the abstraction sheets into twenty-six totalling registers, was the second stage of the operations, and commenced on different dates in different offices, according to the accuracy of the antecedent abstraction or the rapidity with which errors in it were corrected. "It was at first intended," to quote from the report, "that tabulation should be completed by the middle of August, but only one district, Noakhali, was able to work within this limit of time, followed closely by Bogra. Most districts completed tabulation by the end of September, but a few dragged on to the end of the year."

11. On these two operations, which were carried out according to fixed scales of work, Mr. O'Donnell has a good deal to say, chiefly of a technical character, which the Lieutenant-Governor will not discuss in this place, but which will doubtless prove useful to the census officer ten years hence; but the arguments employed in favour of less haste in future in conducting abstraction and tabulation are very sensible. The basis of the scheme on this occasion was the completion of the work of abstraction in four months, or 100 working days, and to secure this end, great efforts were necessary in several districts where it was difficult to procure skilled labour. "The general opinion of District Officers," in which the Superintendent records his complete concurrence, "was that abstraction was pressed on much too quickly, and that thorough supervision was impossible, except by a demand on the time of District Officers and other gazetted subordinates, which it seems inadvisable to repeat."

12. The fourth chapter of Mr. O'Donnell's Report deals with the cost of the Census. The total allotment made by the Government of India was eight lakhs of rupees, of which a lakh and a half were intended to cover the cost of actual enumeration, and six and a half lakhs that of compiling the resulting statistics. The saving effected on the allotment for enumeration was as much as Rs. 68,871. Very large savings were made under the heads of "Establishment" and "Paper and Printing;" the first being secured by the refusal to entertain Census clerks before the Census, so that nearly all preliminary work was done by the ordinary district staff and by the wholesale employment of the police, whose assistance was invaluable. The second was effected by the most rigorous scrutiny of indents for forms and by the diminished cost of paper, while the employment of larger machinery enabled the Press to turn out its work more cheaply. Excluding Calcutta, the cost of enumeration in 1891 was only Rs. 1,096 per million of population, as against Rs. 2,525 in 1881. Great variations in the cost of the Census were observed in different districts, the expenditure on enumeration per 100,000 of the population ranging from Rs. 278 in Darjeeling and Rs. 198 in Jalpaiguri, to Rs. 41 in Muzaffarpur, Rs. 45 in Champaran, and Rs. 49 in Dinajpur, the provincial average being Rs. 69.

The cost of the Census.

13. The second and largest branch of expenditure was connected with the abstraction and tabulation of the Census schedules in the district offices. Excluding Calcutta, as well as Kuch Bihar and Hill Tippera, the Administration of which States bore the entire cost of compilation, and making allowance for the municipal contributions and other recoveries, the Census statistics of a population of 73,245,496 persons were abstracted and tabulated at a cost of Rs. 6,20,000, so that the saving on the allotment made by the Census Commissioner was Rs. 30,000. Mr. O'Donnell's conclusion is that the allotments for abstraction were generally found to be ample, but that in tabulation they were very frequently exceeded, not because they were insufficient, but because the clerks in many offices combined to resist the tasks required of them, and so to prolong the period of their employment. His suggestions for future retrenchment in these operations do not call for present orders.

14. The Lieutenant-Governor considers the savings of nearly a lakh of rupees to be proof of the firm control maintained over expenditure by the Census Superintendent; but from information which has reached him from various quarters, Sir Antony MacDonnell is disposed to think that a little more liberality, while it would not have detracted from the credit due to Mr. O'Donnell, would have made the Census machinery work more smoothly. Serious inconvenience was caused in several districts by the rigid economy enforced in the supply of enumeration books. Sufficient allowance seems hardly to have been made in some instances for local difficulties, and the want of competent clerks, and funds for preliminary expenditure were not always adequate. It is not usual for the Government to look askance at economy of expenditure, and Sir Antony MacDonnell is far from under-estimating the Superintendent's devotion to this part of his duties. But it is to be remembered that if private persons did not largely assist the Government on these occasions by the gratuitous loan of their services, the cost of a Census in India would be enormous. Illiberality of treatment deters unofficial persons from helping us in time of need, and the Lieutenant-Governor therefore thinks that the claims to be recouped reasonable expenses, put forward by such private persons who have devoted time and trouble to the service of Government, should not be scrutinized in a grudging spirit. The Lieutenant-Governor takes this opportunity of recording his cordial acknowledgments of the invaluable assistance which private individuals have gratuitously given the Government on this occasion.

15. The chapter on Census Legislation, which is the fifth of Mr. O'Donnell's Report, the Lieutenant-Governor leaves for consideration when the arrangements for the next Census are under discussion.

Census Legislation.

16. The second part of the Superintendent's Report, dealing with the results of the Census, commences with his sixth chapter, which contains a statement of the actual population discovered by the Census, and a succinct but graphic account

The results of the Census.

of the country in which they live. Mr. O'Donnell has abandoned the usual arrangement by which the Lower Provinces of Bengal are portioned out into administrative Divisions; and for the purpose of examination, looking chiefly to their geographical and ethnological characteristics, he has broken up the traditional provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and has re-arranged the districts of Bengal into the following great groups: (I) Northern Bengal, consisting of (*a*) the plains portion of the Rajshahi Division with parts of Malda and Purnea, and (*b*) Darjeeling, the Western Duars and Kuch Bihar. (II) Eastern Bengal, comprising the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions and the Khulna district, divided into (*a*) the inland districts, (*b*) the littoral districts, and (*c*) the Sunderbuns, besides the Chittagong Hills and the State of Hill Tippera. Western Bengal (III) includes the districts of (*a*) the Presidency and (*b*) Burdwan Divisions, and (*c*) the metropolitan towns. North Bihar (IV) including the sub-Himalayan tract, South Bihar (V) the southern area bordering on the Chutia Nagpur Division. Orissa (VI) and Chutia Nagpur (VII) each fall naturally into two parts—that under the direct control of the Lieutenant-Governor, and that under the Chiefs of the Tributary States, to which has been added the British district of the Sonthal Parganas. This arrangement certainly groups the population upon an intelligent and instructive system, while the figures which are contained in the statements appended to the report enable an examination of the figures to be conducted upon the old lines.

The distribution of the population.

17. The population is distributed as follows over the great natural divisions of the Province described above :—

	Area.	Population.	Density.
Northern Bengal	21,836	10,002,671	456·6
Eastern Bengal	34,238	16,007,257	467·1
Western Bengal	22,994	14,388,337	622·7
Total Bengal Proper ...	79,068	40,398,265	510·3
North Bihar	19,118	12,901,025	674·8
South „	16,421	8,364,125	509·3
Total Bihar ...	35,539	21,265,150	595·8
Orissa	24,240	5,744,062	232·8
Chutia Nagpur	48.489	7,266,347	149·8
Grand Total ..	187,336	74,673,824	398·3

The above figures show that the Bengali population proper amounts to 54·09 per cent. of the total, and that it covers an area of 42·2 per cent. of the province; that the Biharis amount to 28·47 per cent. of the population and inhabit 18·9 per cent. of the area of the province; that the Uriyas, with a country covering 12·9 per cent. of the area of Bengal, are 7·69 per cent. of the population. Finally, the inhabitants of Chutia Nagpur, who are mostly aboriginals living in a thinly-populated tract, are 9·73 per cent. of the whole, and are scattered over an area which is equivalent to 25·9 per cent. of the whole country.

18. The figures for North Bihar are phenomenal. This tract contains no great cities, except Patna (165,192) and Gaya (80,383), and is in all respects a purely rural country; yet it carries a population of 674·8 to the square mile, and some of its districts show such wonderful figures as 930 (Saran), 902 (Muzaffarpur), and 840 (Darbhanga). Next in the list of sub-provinces comes Western Bengal, with a density of 622·7 per square mile, but this is largely due to the inclusion of Calcutta and the Suburbs with the towns of Howrah and Bally, and if these are excluded, the population of the sub-province amounts only to 508 to the square mile. How these figures compare with those

recorded in other provinces of the Empire will be seen from the the statistics below, which are taken from Table I of the Imperial Census Tables—

	Area.	Population.	Density per square mile.
Bengal* ...	151,543	71,346,987	470·8
Assam ...	49,004	5,476,833	111·7
Bombay ...	125,144	18,901,123	151·
Burma ...	171,430	7,605,560	44·3
Central Provinces ...	86,501	10,784,294	124·6
Madras ...	141,189	35,630,440	252·3
North-Western Provinces ...	107,503	46,905,085	436·4
Punjab ...	110,667	20,866,847	188·5

Some of the district figures have been quoted above: the density ranges from 1,264 to the square mile in Howrah to 20 in the Hill Tracts of Chittagong. Altogether eleven districts have an average population of 700 or more to the square mile, as against ten in 1881. The two lists given in the margin show the comparative density at the two periods, and they also demonstrate clearly the general advance in density in these districts which were already over-populated.

1891.		1881.	
Howrah ...	1,264	Howrah ...	1,130
Saran ...	930	Saran ...	869
Muzaffarpur ...	902	Muzaffarpur ...	859
Hooghly ...	880	Patna ...	845
24-Parganas ...	867	Hooghly ...	828
Dacca ...	865	Darbhanga ...	789
Patna ...	852	24-Parganas ...	771
Darbhanga ...	840	Dacca ...	756
Faridpur ...	793	Faridpur ...	719
Pabna ...	741	Pabna ...	710
Tippera ...	716		

Increase and decrease of the population.

19. The seventh chapter of Mr. O'Donnell's Report deals with a subject of very great administrative importance, viz., the variation of the population, district by district, since 1881, and he rightly describes the chapter as one of the most important in the volume. The district figures are discussed with care and minuteness, and extracts are given from the reports of many district officers, which the Lieutenant-Governor has read with interest. These are, however, too numerous for notice here, and His Honour must content himself with referring to some of the most important among them, as well as the figures for areas larger than the district.

20. The Census Superintendent has followed the same arrangement of areas which has already been referred to in previous paragraphs. He has also, with commendable industry, carried still further the investigations into increase and decrease which were very fully discussed in Chapter V of the Bengal Census Report for 1881. Mr. O'Donnell has shown in a small table for every district the variation, actual and proportionate, in the number of persons actually enumerated in the district in 1881 and in 1891, and he has also ascertained, by a judicious use of the birthplace statistics, what may be called the corrected population for each district. From the recorded total have been deducted the figures for all persons enumerated in the district who were born elsewhere; on the other hand there have been added the numbers of those who, though born in the district, have been enumerated elsewhere, the result being the population actually born in the district. From this operation two important results emerge: it is possible to recognize very clearly in what districts population is increasing or decreasing, irrespective of outside influences, and it is not less easy to see to what localities immigrants resort and what tracts are being depleted by emigration.

21. When people are prosperous and live in a healthy climate, population usually increases. But it is not always safe to infer prosperity from an increase in population: the inference, however, in the case of Eastern Bengal would not be incorrect. An examination of the figures shows very clearly that, during the ten years which elapsed between 1881 and 1891, the districts of this sub-province have, without exception, made great strides in material prosperity and in numbers. Not long before the Census of 1881 their prosperity was rudely checked, and great loss of life and vast damage to property were caused by the cyclone and storm-wave of October 1876: but even in 1881 the ravages of that terrible calamity had been largely repaired, and the advance which had then commenced has been so well sustained, that

* Excluding Feudatory States, &c.

between that year and 1891 there was an increase of 10 per cent. or more in every district of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions, the progress being greatest in those which had suffered most severely in 1876, viz., Noakhali, Chittagong, Backergunge, and Tippera. Not far behind these districts come the Tributary States of Chutia Nagpur and the districts of the Chutia Nagpur Division, with the exception of Hazaribagh. The non-Aryan races are said by Mr. O'Donnell to be extremely prolific, and the fine climate of this tract, and the simple habits of its people, all tend to the preservation of life and the rapid reproduction of the species. Nevertheless, these facts do not sufficiently account for the recorded increase, and it seems impossible to doubt that much of it is due, especially in the Tributary States, as in the contiguous Tributary States of Orissa, to more accurate enumeration, and in some extent to immigration. The same explanation alone suits the great increase in Darjeeling of 28·1 per cent. in the number of women. As soon as the figures of 1881 were published, it was suspected that there had been in this district a great concealment in the number of women, and the suspicion is now verified. The district of Malda, which, during the decade, has enjoyed a season of uninterrupted prosperity, has also increased 14·4 per cent. on the population of 1881. Saran, which is the most densely populated rural district in the province, and which was described by Mr. Beverley in 1872 as incapable of sustaining any further burden on the soil, shows an advance in its net population of 13·3 per cent.: Howrah, which is essentially an urban district, has an increase of 17·2 per cent., which the Census Superintendent is unable to credit. No districts give a net decrease except Birbhum (4 per cent.), Rajshahi (3·1), and Burdwan and Rangpur (1 per cent. each). In all these districts fever has been continuously prevalent.

22. The general results for the larger areas of Mr. O'Donnell's classification are as follow:—

		Variation in net population.		
		Males.	Females.	Total.
I.—Northern Bengal—				
Plains districts	...	+ 2·9	+ 1·7	+ 2·3
Hills and Terai	...	+ 7·6	+ 5·8	+ 6·76
II.—Eastern Bengal—				
Inland districts (*a*)	...	+ 10·7	+ 11·9	+ 12·3
Littoral districts (*b*)	...	+ 18·9	+ 16·4	+ 17·7
Hilly tracts	...	Not available.		
III.—Western Bengal—				
Presidency districts	...	Not available.		
Burdwan districts	...	+ 4·3	+ 2·4	+ 3·3
Calcutta	...	+ 16·4	+ 12·4	+ 14·4
IV.—North Bihar	...	+ 6·4	+ 8·0	+ 7·2
V.—South Bihar (*c*)	...	− 1·8	+ 3·1	+ ·6
VI.—Orissa	...	+ 9·2	+ 11·3	+ 10·2
VII.—Chutia Nagpur (*d*)	...	+ 14·9	+ 14·3	+ 14·6

23. The statistics of gross population display, as might have been expected, greater variation, for whereas in respect of net population there were seventeen districts which showed an advance of 10 per cent. or more, and only four which returned an absolute decrease, the varying tide of migration has added so eccentric a factor to the natural progress of population, that while fifteen tracts show an advance in gross population, the number of tracts in which numbers have actually fallen off is seven, viz. Kuch Bihar (3·9), Birbhum (3·8), Jessore (2·5), Rangpur (1·6), Rajshahi (1·2), Nadia (1·1), and Burdwan (0·1). The districts of Eastern Bengal again take a prominent place, as the figures in the margin will show, clearly proving that the favourable conditions of life in those districts have invited settlers as well as stimulated natural increase. In Howrah and the 24-Parganas "the Middlesex of Bengal," the attractions of the metropolis and of the great mills and factories which gird it about account for the increase: in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri the

	Increase of gross population.
Darjeeling ...	43·2
Chota Nagpur States	30·9
Noakhali ...	23·0
Tippera ...	17·9
Howrah ...	17·5
Jalpaiguri ...	17·3
Dacca ...	14·5
Malda ...	14·4
Chittagong ...	13·8
Mymensingh ...	13·4
Backergunge ...	13·2
Manbhum ...	12·9
24-Parganas ...	12·5
Sonthal Parganas ...	11·8
Bogra ...	11·2

(*a*) Excluding Jessore.
(*b*) Excluding Khulna.
(*c*) Including Monghyr and Bhagalpur.
(*d*) Including the Sonthal Parganas.

very high figures are attributable to the development of the tea industry, the more accurate census being in Darjeeling an additional explanation. Malda and Bogra are two prosperous tracts in the generally stagnant area of the Rajshahi Division, while the prospect of virgin soil at easy rates of rent, and the facilities afforded by the new railway, have flooded the Sonthal Parganas, Manbhum, and the Chutia Nagpur States with immigrants.

24. Focussing all the province in one general view, it seems that only in one large tract, viz., Eastern Bengal, has there been a general and marked advance of the gross population, viz., 13·5 per cent. Orissa and Chutia Nagpur, it is true, yield an increase of 10·2 and 12·2 per cent. respectively: but this is due, to an indefinite but large extent, to better enumeration. Bihar, thanks to the development of the sub-Himalayan tract and to the advance in the marvellous district of Saran, has been able to withstand the loss of population in its southern zone from fever and the heavy drain of emigration, and shows a gross increase of 4·7 per cent. On the other hand, in Northern Bengal, excluding the hilly tracts, every district but Malda and Bogra has either retrograded or remained stationary, and the general advance is only 2·5 per cent. Lastly, Western and Metropolitan Bengal, owing to the persistent fever which throughout the decade has clung to the districts of that sub-province, has a percentage of increase, excluding the metropolitan towns, of only 3 per cent.

Emigration and Immigration.

25. The Report leaves no room for doubt that since 1881 the habit of emigration, chiefly of a temporary character only, has increased to some extent among the people of these provinces. The pressure on the soil in some districts, the facilities of railway communication, and the increased cost of living everywhere, have induced an emigration which was unknown ten years ago. Excluding those who had passed out of India and could not be traced, the balance of migration to and from other provinces against Bengal in 1881 was 147,001, whereas in 1891 as many as 821,998 persons had left Bengal, as against 506,423 who had come in, leaving a balance against the Lower Provinces of 315,575 persons, or more than double the loss of population ten years before. For this great drain Assam is mainly responsible, that province containing at the time of the census 418,360 persons born in Bengal, of whom 190,774 were emigrants from Chutia Nagpur. The distribution of the emigrants from Bengal is given below—

North-Western Provinces and Oudh	206,018	Madras	10,923
Assam	418,360	Punjab	7,654
Central Provinces ...	55,741	Bombay and Sindh ...	11,218
		Burma	112,084

26. The migration beyond the province is of course small compared to the movement of population within the province itself. Impressed with the greatness of the latter movement, Mr. O'Donnell doubts whether "any nation in the Old World is within its own limits in a more constant state of movement or more ready to change its homes." The Lieutenant-Governor has no information before him as to the volume of this migratory movement in European countries, but in Bengal the facts do not seem to warrant the significance which Mr. O'Donnell attaches to them, nor to show any very appreciable difference from what was already well known on the subject. In 1881, after excluding all those persons, the districts of whose birth had not been recorded, and all those enumerated in Bengal who were born outside the Province, there were found in Bengal 68,467,933 persons who had been born within its limits: to these may be added 615,286 persons born in Bengal and found elsewhere, so that the number of Bengal-born persons in that year, excluding those whose returns were indefinite, was 69,083,219. Of this number, only 3,428,867, or 4·96 per cent, were enumerated in districts other than that in which they were born, and 615,286 (or ·88 per cent.) were found in other provinces. The inter-district and inter-provincial migration of the people in 1881 then was measured by 5·84 per cent. of the total Bengal-born population. In 1891 the number of persons in Bengal, of whose birthplaces we have information, was 73,848,719, and those Bengal-born persons who were found elsewhere numbered 821,998, so that the total of natives of Bengal in 1891 was 74,670,717. Of this number 3,775,582, or 5·05 per cent., were found in districts other than that of their birth, and, as already stated, 821,998,

or 1·1 per cent., were enumerated outside the province. The migration of the people in 1891 then is measured by 6·15 per cent. on the total Bengal-born population, or ·31 more than in 1881. The increase is not more than a very moderate response to the increased facilities of communication which have come into existence during the decade; while taken absolutely, the migration is not of a magnitude to call for any special notice, or to justify the Superintendent's description of it. If it be remembered that the boundaries of districts and of provinces are often merely conventional lines, the dwellers on both sides of which are practically the same people, intermarrying freely, and passing without stint backwards and forwards on business or pleasure, it would seem that the movement recorded is really inconsiderable, and that the statement of the Census Superintendent of 1881, that the natives of these provinces are "above all things a domestic and stay-at-home people," is nearer the mark than the later statement now under notice.

27. In many districts, of course, which march with provincial boundaries, there is a considerable immigrant population, and a considerable number of its natives are found elsewhere: so, also, where there are special attractions, a district shows a large immigrant population, or conversely, where the pressure on the soil is great or the climate unhealthy, the proportion of emigrants is large. These ratios are worked out district by district in Mr. O'Donnell's Report, in a series of tables for each sub-province of his classification. In eight districts the immigrants amount to 10 per cent. or more of the population, and in twenty others the ratio is 5 per cent. or more. Only three districts show a percentage of more than 10 of emigrants to the total born in the district, but in twenty-two others the ratio is between 5 and 10 per cent. The districts with the largest proportion of emigrants and immigrants are given in the two lists in the margin.

Immigration.		*Emigration.*	
Calcutta	66·3	Hooghly	15·9
Darjeeling	61·0	Saran	15·2
Hill Tippera	24·2	Lohardaga	11·7
Jalpaiguri	21·6		
Tributary States—Chutia Nagpur	17·3		
Howrah	15·3		
Champaran	13·3		
Malda	10·5		

Urban population.

28. Bengal, as judged by the relative proportions of its urban and rural population, remains as much as ever an agricultural country of small villages and hamlets. The total figures of urban population in 1881 and 1891 unfortunately cannot be fairly compared, since the meaning of the term was differently construed in the two years. In 1881 every municipality, whatever its population, was reckoned as a town, as was every village or group of villages with more than 5,000 inhabitants, provided that it was really urban in character, while in 1891 that term only included those places to which Government has seen fit to extend municipal legislation. There is, therefore, an apparent decrease in the urban population of 203,811; but comparing the population of existing municipal areas with the population of the same places in 1881, there has been an increase of 304,236 persons, or 9·36 per cent., in the decade. This increase is far from universal, so that Bengal as yet knows nothing of that indraught to the great cities which is so prominent a feature of European sociology. Where the urban population has increased, there has always been a specific cause, such as the development of railway communications, as in Mokameh and Jamalpur, Lohardaga and Daltonganj, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, and Chapra, coupled sometimes with the attractions of climate, as in Darjeeling; the development of trade, as in Jalpaiguri, Dacca, Chittagong, and Narainganj, or a purely fortuitous and temporary influx of pilgrims as in Puri.

29. The number of villages with less than 200 inhabitants is 54 per cent. of the whole, and an interesting table shows what proportion of the total population in each geographical division lives in villages of different sizes. As might have been expected from the universal fertility of the country, the agricultural habits of the people, and their long freedom from war and rapine, Bengal has comparatively speaking fewer large towns than any other of the great Indian provinces. Mr. O'Donnell writes:—

"The Lower Provinces contain 37 towns with more than 20,000 inhabitants, the number in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh being precisely the same, and in the Madras Presidency only one less. In Bombay 21 towns exceed this population, and in the Punjab 23. In the proportion of great towns to total provincial population the rank of these great

administrative divisions is the reverse of that in which they have been detailed above, the Punjab taking the first place and Bengal the last. The only point in which the Lower Provinces can claim any urban superiority lies in the fact that Calcutta, as befits its metropolitan position, is the largest city in the Empire, with a population, including its immediate suburbs, of 879,154 souls, Bombay with 821,764 inhabitants being a close second, Madras coming a rather distant third with 452,518 people within its municipal limits. The two former great Indian capitals have the distinction of exceeding in population every city in the British Empire except London, whilst only Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham surpass Madras. The only capitals in Europe that possess a larger population than Calcutta are Paris, Berlin, and St. Petersburgh; in Asia, Tokio; and in the rest of the world four great cities of the United States of America."

Europeans and Eurasians.

30. The numbers and distribution of the European and Eurasian population are matters of interest not only to the Administration, but to the general public. The numbers at the present census and the last appear to have been as follows:—

	British-born subjects.	Other Europeans.	Eurasians.	Total.
1881	10,583	13,638	14,705	38,926
1891	9,198	13,575	15,162	37,935
Difference ...	—1,385	—63	+457	—991

The decrease among the Europeans has been entirely in Calcutta, where the English-born fell from 5,923 in 1881 to 4,225 in 1891—a result so unexpected that the Superintendent hazards the conjecture that some of the forms for Europeans in Calcutta have been mislaid and their contents omitted from calculation. Rather more than half of the 22,773 Europeans, viz. 11,914, are found in Calcutta, the only other districts which have more than 1,000 Europeans being the 24-Parganas (2,010), Patna (1,662), and Darjeeling (1,049), their prominence being due to the cantonments they contain. Howrah, with 826 is not far behind.

31. The figures for the Eurasian population are full of significance, and it is to be regretted that it is not possible to place implicit confidence in them. It is well known that there exists among certain classes of them a tendency to record themselves as pure Europeans, and this must to a certain, though indefinable, extent impair the value of the returns. Nevertheless the fact that Europeans have not increased during the decade, even after making every allowance for possible errors in the Calcutta census, gives some ground for the belief that the Eurasian returns are fairly reliable. Their inclination, as is well known, is to cluster in colonies in the older towns of the province, so that Calcutta returns 9,818, or 64·7 per cent. of the whole number, Howrah, with its mills and railway workshops, shows 810, Chittagong contains 575, Patna 570, Burdwan 382, Monghyr 343. Their increase during the decade has only been 3·1 per cent., and the figures given by Mr. O'Donnell go to show that, contrary to the general opinion, they are not prolific. Moreover, his statistics confirm the conviction that the poverty and the habits of those who form a large percentage of the community are inimical to health and longevity. Out of every 20,000 persons in England of each sex, 1,380 males and 1,501 females are over 50 years of age; in the total population of the Lower Provinces, which is almost entirely native, the proportions are 1,032 males and 1,191 females, while among Eurasians the figures are for males 923 and for females 1,151.

The religions of the people.

32. The statistics of religious belief have at each preceding census afforded information of great interest, and the enumeration of 1891 is no exception to the rule. In 1872 it was demonstrated, for the first time, that the stronghold of Muhammadanism was not, as had till then been supposed, the great and ancient city of Patna and the old Moghul province of Bihar, but the swamps and rice-fields of Eastern Bengal: in 1881 a considerable advance of Hindus was displayed, which was attributed to the inclusion in that category of many members of aboriginal or semi-aboriginal tribes, while the Report of 1891 gives good

ground for the conclusion that the feature of the past ten years has been the great development of Islam. Mr. O'Donnell has discussed the subject with care, and has shown conclusively, by the aid of statistical tables, that throughout the province during the past decade the Muhammadans have gained steadily on the Hindus, while in Bengal Proper, during the nineteen years which have elasped since the census of 1872, the deficiency of half a million of Muhammadans has been wiped out, and has been replaced by an excess of one million and-a-half. The Census Superintendent attributes this result less to conversion than to the fecundity of the Muhammadan population, and his remarks merit quotation:—

"On the other hand, the Muhammadan faith, like the Sikh, opens its arms to every comer and receives him on terms of the broadest equality, if the profession he actually pursues is not an essentially degrading one. All the agricultural castes—the Chandal, Kaibartta or Chasa—on joining Musalmansim develops into a Shaikh, and it depends only on his wordly wealth to what rank he may aspire in seeking a bride for himself or a husband for his daughter. It is a matter of history that the republican character of the domestic constitution of Musalman society won innumerable converts in Eastern Bengal when the Moghul supremacy was first established in that region a few centuries ago. It would be strange if it did not still exert a strong attraction, and the great growth of the faith would seem to bear witness to this opinion, which, however, it is impossible to prove statistically. It is known that a powerful Muhammadan propaganda is at work, and that the preaching of the ubiquitous Mullahs and Mirs is directed not only to instil the precepts of a higher life, according to the doctrines of the Koran, on Musalmans, but to gain new followers for its teachings. That converts should result seem natural, but, however this may be, it is certain that the great growth of Musalmansim in Bengal Proper is connected rather with physical than doctrinal forces. The Musalman with his more varied and nutritious dietary is probably a more vigorous man than the Hindu. Moreover, the universal practice of widow marriage, which the Bengali Hindu holds in abhorrence, adds very largely to the reproductive class amongst Muhammadan women. On the other hand, ill-assorted marriages are far more common amongst Hindus, men well advanced in years being united to girl-wives who in the natural course of human life are left widows, debarred from further maternity at a comparatively early age. Musalmans also, particularly in Eastern Bengal, are polygamists whenever they have the means to support a second wife, generally a widow, married as often as a convenient unpaid domestic drudge as for the sake of the children she usually bears her master."

33. The actual figures for the different religions in 1881 and 1891, their ratio in 10,000 of the population, and their variation during the decade, are shown in the statement below:—

Religions.	1891.		1881.		Variation.	
	Number.	Ratio in 10,000.	Number.	Ratio in 10,000.	Number.	Ratio.
Hindus	47,821,468	6,407	45,452,826	6,536	+ 2,368,662	— 129
Jains	7,270	1	1,609	·2	+ 5,661	+ ·8
Brahmos	2,546	0·3	788	·1	+ 1,758	+ ·2
Musalmans	23,658,347	3,170	21,704,724	3,121	+ 1,953,623	+ 49
Buddhists	194,717	26	155,809	22	+ 38,908	+ 4
Sikhs	417	·05	549	·07	— 132	— ·02
Christians	192,484	26	128,135	18	+ 64,349	+ 8
Jews	1,448	·1	1,059	·1	+ 389	...
Parsis	179	·02	156	·02	+ 23	...
Animistic	2,753,061	369	2,055,822	297	+ 697,239	+ 72
Minor	32	·004	...	...	...	...
Not returned	11,397	1	35,404	6	— 24,007	— 5
Total ...	74,643,366	10,000	69,536,861	10,000	+ 5,106,505	...

34. It has been stated that the census figures of 1872 first showed how strictly localised the religions of the province were, and the localisation of religion is as distinct as ever. In every district of Orissa more than 90 per cent. of the population are Hindus, while Bihar is only slightly less Hindu, since in every district of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, except Purnea, they number 85 per cent. or more. No district is so exclusively Muhammadan as these are Hindu, the highest proportion of Muhammadans being reached in Bogra (80·62), while in Rajshahi (78·72), Noakhali (75·30), Pabna (73·31), and Chittagong (71·69) they exceed 70 per cent., and the other districts of Eastern Bengal without exception have a Muhammadan population of more than 60 per cent. Animistic religions are of course most largely represented in the Orissa and Chutia Nagpur Divisions and in the districts bordering on them.

35. The Chutia Nagpur Division is also conspicuous for the great increase of Christians which it shows. Christianity, though the number of its adherents is

still comparatively small, being 128,135 in all, or 26 in every 10,000 of the general population, has throughout the Lower Provinces made greater progress, relatively speaking, during the last decade than any other religion, the advance being 50·21 per cent.; but in the Chutia Nagpur Division the increase has been 122·6 per cent., the numbers having advanced from 40,373 in 1881 to 89,654 in 1891. Mr. O'Donnell's report examines the distribution of this increase among the various denominations of the Christian religion, and his observations will be read with interest by the friends of missionary enterprise in India. The recorded figures have, however, to be received with considerable reservations, and a comparison of figures for denominations at the time of the two censuses is extremely difficult, on account of considerable differences of description at the two periods.

The ages of the people.

36. Like his predecessor in 1881, Mr. O'Donnell has devoted much trouble and time to the extraction of the ages of the population, and, like him, has been compelled to confess that the result is entirely incommensurate with the labour and expense involved. In 1881 age-periods were for the first time compiled in detail in India, and were worked out on two abstraction sheets. In 1891 four abstraction sheets were used to record the ages of the whole population, of which two (Nos. I and XI) formed the basis of check for all the work of abstraction, and were therefore corrected with the utmost care. The cost of preparing these great tables has been estimated by Mr. O'Donnell at about two and three-quarter lakhs of rupees, or more than one-half of the total cost of abstraction, and the Lieutenant-Governor notes with sympathy the Superintendent's disheartening conclusion that the greater part of this large sum was absolutely thrown away. So strong is Mr. O'Donnell's conviction on this point that he has proposed that in future the age-tables of only a part—perhaps six millions of the population—should be abstracted, typical circles, both urban and rural, being selected for treatment. No orders are required upon this proposal now, but the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that it will receive the fullest consideration before the census of 1901 is undertaken.

37. For the reasons stated above, it would be unprofitable to examine at any length the voluminous age-tables which are contained both in the statistical volumes of the Report and in the letter-press of Mr. O'Donnell's first volume, and in any case such interest as they possess is purely statistical. The errors in recording the ages of the population which were observed in 1881 are repeated in 1891 with very slight variations, so much so that the Superintendent of the Census just taken quotes *in extenso* the observations of his predecessor as exactly applicable to the figures before him. A great effort was made by the Agra Conference to remove one prolific source of error, by directing that children under one year of age should be described simply as "infant," instead of by the number of months of age—a device which in 1881 is believed to have resulted in large numbers of infants of less than 12 months being returned as of the corresponding number of years. This change, however, seems to have been quite unsuccessful, and the figures again present the absurd spectacle not only in Bengal, but all over India, of more children alive between the ages of 5 to 9 than those of 0 to 4; while in the first five years of life the fourth is most largely represented, followed in succession by the first fifth, third, and second, in that order. Again, too, the phenomenon reappears of large numbers of ages returned at the round numbers, multiples of 5 and 10; and the Superintendent, carrying his investigations beyond the quinquennial periods to groups for each year of life, has shown that certain favourite ages—12, 16, 22, 32, and 42—have been returned by an altogether disproportionate number of the population. The fact is that the vast majority of the people are still so illiterate, and their inaccuracy as regards their ages so universal, that the collection of trustworthy age statistics is for the present a hopeless task in Bengal.

38. After the censusof 1881, the figures then obtained were referred to a distinguished English statistician, Mr. Hardy, who, by the aid of a small number of accurately recorded life statistics from the North-Western Provinces, elaborately corrected the chaotic figures presented to him. Mr. O'Donnell has applied the conclusions so obtained to the returns of the late census, and has redistributed the age figures over 10,000 of the population in all the great

natural divisions of the country, producing statistics which, if they do not carry to the Lieutenant-Governor's mind complete conviction of their accuracy, bear testimony to the industry of the writer, who has based upon them conclusions as to the fecundity and longevity of the different religions and races in different parts of the province, which are at least plausible and ingenious. Out of the mists and uncertainties of these statistics, however, there emerge two conclusions of practical importance, which are at least *vraisemblable*. It is stated that in the Lower Provinces the true birth-rate is 47·9 per thousand (49·7 for males and 46·0 for females), and the death-rate 39·9 per thousand, being 41·7 for males and 38·0 for females. These ratios, based upon the conclusions of the European statistician already referred to, differ but slightly from those arrived at by Mr. Bourdillon in 1881, who deduced from the figures of that census a birth-rate of "not less than 45 per mille" and a death-rate of "about 34 per mille." These results go far to demonstrate, if further demonstration be needed, how exceedingly imperfect are the present vital statistics, which, according to the report of the Sanitary Commissioner for 1892, yielded in that year a Provincial birth-rate of 28·15 and a death-rate of 31·92 per mille.

Sex and marriage.

39. Not less interesting than the question of the ages of the people are those of their sex and conjugal condition, which are discussed at length in Chapter XI of Mr. O'Donnell's Report (Volume III). At the census of 1872 no attempt was made to publish statistics of civil condition except as an experiment for a few towns, and even then they were not shown in connection with age. In 1881 civil condition, religion and age were shown in combination, and details of the single, married and widowed of each sex were given for every religion in nine age-groups. In 1891 the same statistics were shown again; but a great step in advance was taken in the abstraction of these figures not only for religions, but for castes. The results obtained at either census were practically identical, and this fact affords strong evidence of the general accuracy of both; but the statistics for marriage in each caste have enabled Mr. O'Donnell to make a deduction which, though already brought to notice by Mr. Risley, C.I.E., in 1887, has now been statistically established for the first time, and is among the most interesting results of the present census, viz., the great extent to which widow-marriage is practised among the Hindu population. This conclusion is opposed to Brahminical teaching and to the supposed customs of the people; but the figures, supported by the conclusions independently formed by Mr. Risley, leave little room for doubt on the subject.

40. The proportion of the sexes varies greatly in different parts of the Lower Provinces and in different religions. In 1881 the Provincial Superintendent remarked that the accuracy of a census in India varied with the excess of females over males, the measure of accuracy being the degree of excess; of course the generalization was only a rough one. Every census ought to be more accurate than that which preceded it, and accordingly, while in 1881 there were all over the Province 1,011 females to every 1,000 males, in 1891 the proportion had risen to 1,032. In all the other great provinces of India, except Madras, the ratio of females to males has also increased: in Madras the women to every 10,000 men are two less than in 1881. It is also to be observed that in Bengal and Madras alone do the women outnumber the men, the proportions for other provinces being as follow: Bombay 957, North-Western Provinces and Oudh 923, and the Punjab 854. The ratios in the two latter provinces are appreciably affected by the large number of troops enumerated therein.

41. The Census Superintendent has the following observations on the distribution of females. They are quoted with the view of inviting further examination of the question by persons interested in such enquiries—

"It thus appears that the excesss of females is found only in the western moiety of the Lower Provinces, that is, west of a line drawn north and south from Darjeeling to Calcutta, and that it is most marked in Bihar, which touches on the North-Western Provinces, where women generally, and particularly those of marriageable age, viz., from five to twenty years of age, are singularly few. On the other hand," both in Northern and Eastern Bengal there is a deficit of females, there being only 966 persons of that sex to 1,000 males in each of these sub-provinces. As will appear in the Chapter on Castes and Tribes, this line of cleavage, marked by so important a physiologic distinction as sex predominance, corresponds exactly with the ethnical frontier which divides the races of Mongoloid origin to the east

Musalmans another influence reducing the number of females is indicated by the excessively small number of old women in that community. The prolificness of the Eastern Musalmans is proverbial, and has been proved in detail in the Chapter on Age, but it is bought at the price of a heavy female mortality and short lives amongst women. Whilst among Hindus out of 10,000 women 1,283 exceed 50 years of age, there are only 781 Musalman women of that age in an equal population. In Western Bengal there is an excess of women. Although nearly every district in this area receives a large immigration population, it is mostly derived from the Chutia Nagpur tribes, who, unlike the Bihari and Uriya, rarely leave their womenfolk at home. The great similarity of the proportions of the sexes at every age in both North and South Bihar for both Hindus and Musalmans is a striking evidence of the excellence of compilation in the Census offices of that province."

42. The proportion of single, married, and widowed of either sex in 10,000 of the population at each census is shown in the following table for the different provinces:—

Province.	Single.				Married.				Widowed.			
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.	
	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.
Bengal Proper	5,068	5,010	3,113	2,912	4,556	4,600	4,571	4,604	376	388	2,316	2,483
Bihar	4,102	3,988	2,865	2,757	5,392	5,551	5,328	5,444	506	460	1,807	1,796
Orissa	5,214	5,024	3,489	3,378	4,432	4,658	4,476	4,571	354	317	2,035	2,050
Chutia Nagpur	5,095	4,866	3,935	3,727	4,535	4,851	4,553	4,860	370	281	1,512	1,412
Feudatory States ...	5,339	5,154	4,125	3,860	4,282	4,537	4,279	4,576	379	308	1,596	1,563
Total ...	4,755	4,671	3,105	2,971	4,827	4,930	4,829	4,900	418	398	2,066	2,127

43. The figures for males yield no very remarkable results, but it is a significant fact that since 1881 the general age of males at marriage has increased considerably, and that there are now a larger portion of the unmarried, both bachelors and widowers, than formerly. Mr. O'Donnell has ascribed these phenomena to the increased cost of living and to the greater weight now accorded to prudential considerations, to which must be added the fact that the population of Chutia Nagpur and Orissa, where males marry later than anywhere else, has increased very largely during the decade. Whatever be the cause, the above table shows there are now 103 fewer married men (not 97, as Mr. O'Donnell says) and 71 fewer married women in 10,000 of each sex than there were ten years ago. Infant-marriage among boys exists to an appreciable extent only among the Hindus of Bihar and Chutia Nagpur, and to a less degree among the Musalmans of the former province, being least common among the people of Orissa, both Hindu and Animistic. In Bengal Proper men marry later than in any part of the province, the percentage of unmarried males between 15 and 20 years of age being 70·5 in that sub-province and 74·3 in Orissa, as compared with 34·7 in Bihar and 47·5 in Chutia Nagpur; and the correctness of Mr. O'Donnell's inference that the age of marriage is fixed by local rather than by religious or social usage is proved by the fact that amongst Musulmans between 15 and 20 years of age as many as 67·8 per cent. are unmarried in Bengal against 51·4 in Bihar.

44. The facts elicited as regards female marriage are full of interest, and they show that custom in regard to the marriage of females is much more influential and much more divergent than is the case with males. If infant-marriage be, in regard to females, defined as the marriage of children under twelve years of age, then infant-marriage is almost universal in these Provinces, except in Orissa and Chutia Nagpur. But if the ten years' age-limit be taken, then Mr. O'Donnell finds that infant-marriage, that is, the marriage of children less than ten years of age, although far more common among girls than among boys, is less prevalent among females than some have believed—in fact, like the predominance of females noticed above, it is practically speaking only found in the western half of the Province. Musalmans do not follow the practice, for in no part of Bengal is the percentage of the married among

Orissa ... 1·93

females, marrying off their daughters at the earliest age, while the better classes, by whom seclusion is practised, are able on that account to delay till a later period the choice of a husband. In the next place, the local rather than the religious or social variation in the age at marriage of females is more strongly marked than in the case of males. Girls married under ten years of age hardly exist except in North Bihar. The average age of marriage for girls all over the province is eleven years, but the Hindu girl of Orissa is married at thirteen years and four months, while the Dravidian girl in Chutia Nagpur marries at fourteen, and in Orissa at fourteen and-a-half years of age.

45. Lastly, to quote Mr. O'Donnell's words, the census statistics establish the fact that "young widows, an object of pity in all times and countries, are very few except among the Hindus of Bengal Proper. Everywhere else the Hindu widow remarries as freely as the Musulmani, in fact as freely as the non-Hindu tribes of the Western Hill districts;" and he sums up the conclusions at which he has arrived in the synoptical table quoted in the margin: "It shows how very widespread is this custom. It is in fact condemned only by the priestly, writer and soldier castes, and by some traders in all sub-provinces, by the Nabusakhs or pure Sudras in Bengal Proper, and in a less degree by a few Hinduized tribes, such as the Chandal, Kochh, and Kaiburtta, who are trying to raise themselves in the Hindu scale by a more exact observance of Hindu ordinances." This opinion coincides with the opinion independently expressed by Mr. Risley, who, after a careful examination of the whole subject, writes as follows:—

THE AREAS IN WHICH WIDOW-MARRIAGE PREVAILS.

		Percentage of widows amongst women aged 15 to 39 years.
Widow-marriage universal.		
Orissa ...	The Animistic ...	5·61
Chutia Nagpur ...	" " ...	7·07
Widow-marriage practised by all classes except a few of the highest Hindu castes.		
North Bihar ...	Hindus ...	9·08
Orissa	" ...	9·85
Eastern Bengal ...	Musalmans ...	9·86
North Bihar ...	" ...	10·06
South " ...	Hindus ...	10·33
" " ...	Musalmans ...	10·54
Northern Bengal ...	" ...	11·96
Chutia Nagpur ...	Hindus ...	12·14
Western Bengal ...	Musalmans ...	15·75
Widow-marriage forbidden except by Musalmans and the lowest Hindu castes.		
Northern Bengal ...	Hindus ...	23·04
Eastern " ...	" ...	23·45
Western " ...	" ...	24·12

"In Bihar a fairly liberal tendency seems to prevail. All castes except Brahmans, Rajputs, Babhans, and Kayasths, and certain castes belonging to the Baniya class, which are not properly native to Bihar, permit widows to marry again by the form known as *sagai*. * * * * In Chutia Nagpur the castes which are, or pretend to be, of Bihar origin, follow the Bihar rules in the matter of widow-marriage. The aboriginal tribes, Santhals, Bhumij, Mundas, Oraons, and Hos, permit widows to marry again. * * * * The tendency to imitate the usages of the higher castes, which has been remarked in Bihar and Chutia Nagpur, operates much more strongly in Bengal Proper and Orissa. * * * *

"The present attitude of the Hindu community towards the recent proposals to recognize and extend the practice of widow-marriage may, I think, be briefly stated somewhat to the following effect. The most advanced class of educated men sympathise in a general way with the movement, but their sympathy is clouded by the apprehension that any considerable addition to the number of marriageable women would add to the existing difficulty and expense of getting their daughters married. Below these we find a very numerous class of men who are educated enough to appreciate the prohibition of widow-marriage supposed to be contained in certain texts, and who have no desire to go behind that or any similar injunction in support of which tolerably ancient authority can be quoted. Then come the great mass of the uneducated working classes, with rather vague notions as to the Shastras, but strong in their reverence for Brahmans and keen to appreciate points of social precedence. To them widow-marriage is a badge of social degradation, a link which connects those who practise it with Doms, Boonas, Bagdis and 'low people' of various kinds. Lastly, at the bottom of society, as understood by the average Hindu, we find a large group of castes and tribes of which the lower section is represented by pure aborigines practising adult-marraige and widow-remarriage, while the upper section consists of castes of doubtful origin, most of whom,

retaining widow-marriage, have taken to infant-marriage, while some have got so far as to throw off sub-castes distinguished by their abstention from widow-marriage."

46. The truth is that the practice of widow-remarriage is more prevalent in Bengal than is generally supposed, and—a most important consideration—the practice has apparently spread considerably since 1881. The statement in the margin, prepared from the table given at page 100, Volume I of the Census Report for 1881, and Table VIII-B of Volume IV of the census of 1891, compares the proportion of widows in every 10,000 Hindu females in four age-groups of the child-bearing period at each census. The great decrease in the proportion of widows is very striking, and, as might be expected, the decrease is most marked at the most marriageable ages, though it exists at all child-bearing ages. These results must be due to one or more of three causes—*first*, there must have been a decrease in the comparative number of infant-marriages of girls, as the widows in the first period are so much fewer than in 1881; *secondly*, there may have been a general increase in the practice of widow-marriage; and, *lastly*, there may have been a great addition to Hinduism from those tribes and castes who do not practise infant-marriage, and allow the marriage of widows. To what extent each of these influences has been at work it is impossible to say: probably each has contributed its share; but bearing in mind the extreme conservatism of Hindu society, the efforts of some sections of the community to raise their social position by encouraging infant-marriage and forbidding the remarriage of the widowed, and the almost imperceptible progress which any social reform of this magnitude can make in so short a period as ten years, the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that the third of the suggested influences may have been the most potent.

Ages.	Number of widows in 10,000 Hindu females of each age.		
	1881.	1891.	Difference.
15—19 ...	791	654	—137
20—24 ...	1,136	1,032	—104
25—29 ...	1,661	1,583	— 78
30—39 ...	2,828	2,796	— 32
Total four periods	2,040	1,718	—322

47. The statistics on which Mr. O'Donnell's general conclusions are based have been worked out in great detail for each caste and tribe, and have been exhibited in a series of elaborate tables. In dealing with the question of marriage by caste, however, the Census Superintendent appears to have fallen into a serious error; for he has included under the title of sub-caste not only the sub-castes properly so-called, but also the exogamous sections of a caste and its hypergamous groups. Thus Mr. Risley's enquiries have established the fact that in the great Bihar caste of Babhans (which according to the local proverb contains as many subdivisions as there are sorts of rice) there are no sub-castes; yet Mr. O'Donnell has returned 675. The same may be said of the Rajputs, of whom 634 sub-castes are reported from the Patna Division alone. Again, the Bagdis, a Western Bengal caste, although they have, so far as is known, only 14 sub-castes (which are enumerated by Mr. Risley), have a large number of sections: Mr. O'Donnell has reported the existence of 120 sub-castes of Bagdi, most of which it is almost certain are really exogamous sections. As the statistics on which Mr. (O'Donnell's conclusions are based are preserved in manuscript, the Lieutenant-Governor has directed that they may be made over to Mr. Risley for use in the preparation of the revised edition of his "Castes and Tribes of Bengal," when the figures now given will be examined and incorporated after correction.

Education.

48. The tendency to elaboration in the information collated at each successive census has been conspicuously displayed in the statistics of education prepared from the census figures of 1891. Not only have they been worked out for both sexes and for all religions, as in 1881, but they include the elements of age and caste, and they record the ability or inability of the population to read and write English, and the castes of those who have attained this proficiency. For the purpose of testing the accuracy of the figures obtained at the census, an obvious standard is available in the figures of the Department of Education. In 1881 the Superintendent of Census and the Director of Public Instruction exchanged congratulations upon a general accord in the two sets of figures, which argued

the accuracy of both. On the present occasion in place of ... extensive divergence both from the census figures of 1881 and ... figures of the year 1890-91; but the Census Superintendent ... the accuracy of his statistics, and in consequence impugns ... those supplied by the Department. It appears that according ... number of male pupils in British territory in 1891 was 883,990 ... in 1881 and 1,358,169, as returned by the Director of Public Instruction for 1890-91. A reference to the results obtained in other provinces shows that everywhere except in Madras the same phenomena occur; and Mr. O'Donnell cites this fact as some evidence of the probable correctness of his compilation. The Lieutenant-Governor has no reason to doubt the accuracy of the totalling operations; but he cannot accept as correct the facts recorded in the schedules, without also concluding that there exists among the officials of the Department of Public Instruction, not only in Bengal, but in every province but one of the Empire, a conspiracy to supply false returns to Government. Rather than adopt such a conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor prefers to think that by some fault of translation, or some misunderstanding of the instructions, enumerators have very largely understated the number of persons falling under the category of "learners." It has been suggested that the enumerators put a somewhat strict intepretation on the expression "learning," and on the one hand, returned as illiterate all the young children, and those who attend school irregularly are taught little and learn still less, and that, on the other hand, they returned as literate those who could read and write, although they were still scholars, and should have been returned as "learning."

49. Taking the figures as they stand, however, the following statement gives an abstract of the statistics for every 10,000 of each of the two principal religions:—

Hindus.						Musulmans.					
Males.			Females.			Males.			Females.		
Learning	Literate.	Illiterate.	Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.	Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.	Learning.	Literate.	Illiterate.
295	1,004	8,701	10	36	9,954	178	553	9,269	4	9	9,987

These figures afford ample food for reflection. As regards males, they show that 60 per cent. more Hindus are "learning" than Musalmans, and that the Hindus who can read and write are proportionately nearly twice as numerous as the Muhammadans. Among females ten Hindus are learning to every four Musalmanis, and the proportion of Hindus who can read and write is just four times as high as that of Musalmanis. The totals of illiterates are unnecessarily swollen by the inclusion of children and infants: in the Report on the Census of 1881 the Superintendent eliminated all children below five years of age, and worked out the proportion of learners, literates and illiterates in the remainder of the population, and the Lieutenant-Governor would have been glad had Mr. O'Donnell followed the same plan. As it is, it is impossible to institute a comparison between his carefully-prepared tables and those of the Census of 1881. The statistics of literacy are of the most satisfactory description. "The number of men in British territory who can read and write has increased from 1,955,177 to 2,948,794, or exactly 50 per cent., while for women the progress has been still larger, viz. from 60,567 to 109,684, or by 80·9 per cent." For males the increase appears in every district without exception, and the same is the case with females, except in those districts where it is almost certain that there was an excess in the returns of 1881. The largest increase appears in Bihar, the Patna Division having an advance of 85·4 per cent., and that of Bhagalpur an increase of 87·7 per cent.

50. An elaborate statement compares, district by district, the educational statistics of the sub-provinces, and Mr. O'Donnell's conclusions are these:—

"1. Western Bengal is the best educated division of the Lower Provinces, being closely followed by Eastern Bengal, which would excel it but for the great contingent of pupils and literate found in the metropolitan towns within the former area.

"2. In the Lieutenant-Governorship, including its tributaries, the proportion of Hindu literates is roundly double that of Musulmans.

number of literate and pupil Hindus in Patna and Muzaffarpur, the two best educated districts in that sub-province, only brings them to the level of the most backward districts of Northern Bengal, which holds the lowest place among the divisions of Bengal Proper. On the other hand, a statement of the pupils and literates of different ages shows that great progress has been made in recent years in Bihar, since it is the only sub-province, besides Western Bengal, in which the proportion of males between the ages of 15 and 25 years able to read and write is greater than that of the literate over 25 years of age. In the progress of education lies the best hope of the prosperity of the Biharis. By the admixture of Hindus and Muhammadans, and the competition thereby engendered, the progress of education among the latter has been stimulated.

61. The statistics of knowledge of English now collected for the first time yield some interesting results; before they can be turned to any practical use, the figures of the next census must be awaited. Excluding students, who number 160,6[illegible], there are 158,414 males in the Lower Provinces able to read and write English, of whom 141,842 are other than Europeans, Eurasians, or Native Christians: of these, 80,108, or rather more than half, come from the [illegible]. The number of women who can speak English, subject to the same limitations as above, is only 2,927. From a consideration of the education statistics of Bengal during the last twenty years, the Lieutenant-Governor would have thought that Mr. O'Donnell's statistics of English-knowing people were under the mark, but assuming them to be correct, it would seem to follow that the number of natives of Bengal directly accessible to the influences of Western thought communicated through the medium of English is less than one-half per cent. of the population. Those more or less directly accessible to such or similar influences conveyed through the medium of the vernacular languages and English combined are a little over 4 per cent. of the inhabitants. But, probably, many more are indirectly influenced. What the figures will be ten years hence, or in how many years Bengal will attain to the extension of English speech which prevails in Madras, it is useless to speculate.

Languages.

62. The value of the statistics of language obtained at the census of 1891, like that of the figures for castes and tribes, is almost entirely ethnological. The inclusion of this information in the census schedule and its reproduction in the tables seems to be somewhat of an anachronism and a survival, and although the process involved an inconsiderable degree of trouble and expense, it seems questionable whether it should be undertaken again. In 1878 the Committee which met to arrange for the census of 1881 recommended as the best way of ascertaining the nationality of each individual, the collection and compilation of figures for birth-place and mother-tongue, intending that from a combination of the two should be deduced the nationality of every individual. But the Government of India rightly recognised the difficulty of such a combination, and disapproved the proposal, directing that the two sets of figures should be separately shown. At the Agra Census Conference of 1889 the suggestion was made that information as to mother-tongue should not be asked, but the majority of the members were of opinion that for purposes of comparison with the figures of 1881, and as a check on the returns of caste and tribe in 1891, the statistics might be collected again. The figures show that Bengali is the parent-tongue of more than half the population, and Hindi that of more than one-third, Uriya being spoken by rather more than 6 per cent. of them, and the minor languages by about three millions, or nearly 4 per cent. Wherever in any district or province there is a considerable number of persons speaking a foreign language, the phenomenon has been investigated, and a satisfactory explanation given, which almost always [illegible] immigration or the importation of foreign wives.

Infirmities.

63. As in 1881, the infirmities of the people, which were deemed of sufficient importance for record in the census schedule, were insanity, total blindness, deaf mutism and

leprosy, and the following table gives succinctly the principal [illegible] census in regard to them:—

Infirmities.	Numbers.				Proportion [illegible]							
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Both sexes.		Males.	
	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.	1881.	1891.
Insane	18,336	15,274	12,339	10,354	5	4	3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Blind	47,086	37,366	50,264	36,114	13	10	14	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deaf-mute	52,833	43,455	32,662	26,710	15	11	9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lepers	42,283	34,716	14,240	11,674	12	9	4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total afflicted ...	160,538	130,811	109,565	84,852	45	34	30	22	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

There has been a large decrease in all infirmities since 1881, but the extreme similarity of the proportion of females to males among the afflicted in both years (except in the case of blindness) seems to prove the accuracy of the returns: moreover, every other province in the Empire shows a similar decrease, except in regard to blindness in the Punjab, and deaf-mutism in Madras, the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab. The position of Bengal with reference to other provinces of India is concisely explained by Mr. O'Donnell in the following passage:—

"Insanity is now most prevalent in Bengal, which takes the place held by the Punjab in 1881. Mental disease seems to be phenomenally rare in the North-Western Provinces, but the records of both censuses appear to establish the accuracy of the figures. It is a noticeable fact in this connection, as appears later on, that in Bihar, whose inhabitants nearly resemble those of the North-Western Provinces in physique and social characteristics, the same practical absence of insanity exists. As in 1881, the Punjab and the North-Western Provinces, although their relative position is reversed, suffer most from blindness, a fact due probably to the dust-storms that prevail during the hot season, and consequent ophthalmia. In Bihar, especially in the torrid area south of the Ganges, the same frequency of blindness is observed. In 1881 there were twice as many deaf and dumb in the Lower Provinces in proportion to population as in any other province, except Bombay. In 1891 the Punjab takes the first place, but this affliction is still comparatively prevalent in Bengal. In regard to the dreaded disease of leprosy, Bengal, although it shows a large diminution, still holds the first place by a long interval. Taking all infirmities together, Bengal, which nearly approached the highest Indian average (in Bombay) in 1881, is now low in the scale of the afflicted, being more exempt than any other province, except Madras."

At the present census statistics of infirmities were compiled by castes, and Mr. O'Donnell has discussed the results; but the numbers of the afflicted are so small that it is difficult to found any useful generalization upon the figures.

Insanity.

54. Insanity is most common in Bengal Proper, rare in Bihar, and almost unknown in the areas peopled by races of Dravidian descent. The decrease in the total recorded as compared with 1881 is most probably due to the more careful exclusion of idiots. The great mass of the insane are returned as between 20 and 45 years of age, the period when acquired mania is most common in all countries. The cases and races which show the largest proportion of insanes are Malos, Kochhs and Baishnabs. The Census Superintendent, looking at the areas where insanity is most and least prevalent, makes the suggestion that much of it is due to the use of toxic drugs, a theory which finds some support from the fact that the sect or caste of Baishnab, who are understood to indulge in the use of such drugs, is so largely represented among the insane.

Blindness.

55. The report shows clearly that the castes which suffer most from blindness are those whose trade keeps them continually in a smoky atmosphere, *e.g.*, potters, washermen and blacksmiths, while those who work much in the open air enjoy great immunity. The disease is also comparatively common among the tribes of the [illegible] frontier and the low and semi-Hinduized tribes of Western Bengal, Chutia Nagpur and South Bihar, the cause probably being unclean habits of life. Of the blind, 41 per cent. of the men and 53 per cent. of the women are returned as more than 50 years of age.

Deaf-mutism.

56. Deaf-mutism is again shown to be most prevalent in those tracts where cretinism is common, *i.e.*, the lower slopes of the Himalayas from Champaran to Kuch Bihar, and the districts watered by snow-fed streams from the same source. There is a

Leprosy.

57. In regard to leprosy, a disorder to which so much attention has lately been directed, it is found that the total number of lepers, both male and female, has declined, but the disease is prevalent in the same areas as in 1881. This decrease probably connotes a more careful discrimination by the enumerators between mere leucoderma or white leprosy and the true tubercular and corrosive disease. One district officer suggests that the decrease in the number of lepers returned is due to a widespread rumour that all lepers were to be formally deported to asylums. No caste or district is exempt from this terrible disease; Kuch Bihar and the districts of Western Bengal suffer most severely, followed closely by those of the Orissa Division, while in the Chutia Nagpur Tributary States the disease is almost unknown. The Bediyas of Western and the Kshatriyas of Northern Bengal suffer most severely, while a high proportion is also recorded for the Bauris, Khairas, Sunris, and Khatris of Western Bengal, the Malos of Eastern Bengal, and the Kamars of North Bihar. The caste statistics enable the Superintendent to refute the theory suggested in 1881, that there was considerable concealment of female lepers, and it seems to be established that this disease attacks males more frequently than females.

Castes, tribes, and races.

58. In respect of the treatment of statistics of castes, tribes, and races, the report of 1891 differs greatly from that of 1881. In 1881 the opinion was entertained that it did not come within the proper domain of the Census Superintendent's work to attempt any exhaustive treatment of so large a subject. Mr. O'Donnell, on the other hand, has devoted much time and labour to discussing the views of Messrs. Nesfield, Risley, and others on many intricate anthropological questions. Upon these matters the Lieutenant-Governor does not propose to enter, being of the opinion that their interest is ethnological rather than statistical. Since the Census Report for 1881 was written, Mr. Risley has published his "Castes and Tribes of Bengal," which, though it has not in the provisional edition supplied a workable classification of castes and an index of sub-castes as was hoped when he first undertook the task, has placed before the public a great mass of information with which Mr. O'Donnell's statistics may with much advantage be compared by experts in ethnological investigations.

59. An interesting table in Mr. O'Donnell's Chapter XV gives in juxtaposition the totals of the different castes at the three census periods—1872, 1881 and 1891, and it shows clearly a very marked agreement between the figures of the three enumerations, allowance being made for the growth of the population in each decade. The paragraphs which discuss and explain the variations of each caste are full of interest, and Mr. O'Donnell seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to show successfully that wherever there has been a real decrease in the number of any caste it can be traced either to the fact that its chief home is in an unhealthy part of the province, or to its members forbidding widow marriage. The first explanation accounts for the great diminution in the numbers of Sadgops and Kaibarttas, who chiefly inhabit the fever-stricken Burdwan Division, while the second applies to Brahmans, Kayasths and Baniyas. Both influences have combined to reduce by 15·6 per cent., since 1872, the numbers of the great caste or tribe of Kochh, who not only inhabit the most unhealthy part of the Lower Provinces, but are also dominated at the present time by an extreme desire to raise themselves in the social scale of Hinduism—a desire which has led them to adopt with zeal the practice of infant-marriage of girls and to forbid widow-marriage.

Occupations.

60. The collection of statistics of employment has at all times and in all countries proved to be a fruitful source of labour and expense, giving quite incommensurate results. Mr. O'Donnell states that an elaborate industrial census of the German Empire was undertaken in recent times, which cost nearly a million of marks, and was no nearer statistical accuracy than the census of Bengal itself. In 1881

Mr. Bourdillon reported that the compilation of these statistics was the most tedious, complicated and delicate task in the whole of the operations of the census, and he calculated that to it must be debited at least one-third of all the labour, time and money expended upon the preparation of the census tables, while as to the result even of very little value. Mr. O'Donnell's experience is the same; but one serious disadvantage under which he laboured has been counterbalanced by one great advantage which did not exist in 1881. In 1881 the classification of occupations adopted for the census of Great Britain was adopted by the Government of Bengal under the orders of the Supreme Government, but they were so unsatisfactory that Sir Ashley Eden authorised the preparation of additional tables for the Lower Provinces, based upon a classification more in accordance with the actual facts of native life. In 1891 the English system was rejected and a more appropriate classification substituted for it. But orders passed after the Agra Conference had the unfortunate effect of obscuring the occupations of women and of lessening the value of the information collected on the subject. In 1881 the enumerator was told to enter the occupation of all women who actually worked, and to enter all others as unoccupied. In 1891 his orders were these: "In the case of children and women who do not work, enter the occupation of the head of their family or of the person who supports them but do not leave this column entirely blank for any one, even an infant." The obvious intention, viz., to ascertain the number of persons dependent on each industry, was an excellent one, but the result has been disappointing, since the real facts as to female occupations in 1891 were not recorded, and it has become impossible to institute any comparison with the figures of 1881. The extent of this inconvenience is clearly set forth in the following extract from the report:—

"The immediate result of the above-quoted order was to absolutely eliminate all female occupations. It may be assumed that practically all males over 15 years of age, entered as subsisting by a profession or trade, actually work at it, but no such presumption exists in the case of women, and it is consequently impossible to discriminate between actual and dependents, say, between a lady doctor and a doctor's wife; a female landholder in her own right and a landlord's daughter, and so on. Had this uncertainty extended only to the professional or even to the commercial classes, the loss would not have been great, as we know that their women-folk are generally dependents. It is when we come to consider the great agricultural and industrial orders that the extent of the information thrown away is really felt. It is a known fact that a very large section of women of the peasant class in Bihar work in the fields in a manner that the wife of the Bengali agriculturist rarely does. The occupation returns of 1881 showed as many as 1,154,101 working agriculturists of the female sex in Bihar, against 413,972 in a population twice as numerous in Bengal Proper. Few facts would be more interesting than to determine whether these numbers have relatively changed in the past decade. There is reason to believe that poverty and an excessive population are forcing the male population of Bihar to seek the means of livelihood elsewhere, whilst their women-folk are left to till the fields at home. On the other hand, the growth of wealth in Eastern Bengal and the extension of caste ideas amongst the aboriginal races of the Western districts are causing the women of Bengal Proper to withdraw more and more from an active share in the employments of peasant life. The class of ordinary day-labourers receives from women a considerable contingent, which numbered as many as 1,191,216 in Bihar in 1881, and only 172,111 in Bengal Proper in that year. How many of the 1,160,959 female day-labourers returned in the whole Province in 1891, are actual workers, and how these workers are distributed in the different provinces and districts, does not appear in the tables appended to this report. The number of female mill-hands employed in the jute and cotton factories of Calcutta and Howrah was a matter worth ascertaining, but the actual workers are necessarily confused with the house-wives, who have no connection with these industries, except through their fathers or husbands. There is a large body of women-barbers in Bengal, but they have disappeared amidst the crowds of barbers' wives, daughters, and mothers, most of whom do not follow that occupation. In Nadia some hundreds of women used to make the earthenware figures the district is famous for. It would be interesting to determine whether this trade is passing further into female hands or the reverse. It is believed that the number of Hindu priestesses is smaller than it formerly was. The number of school-mistresses is undoubtedly increased, but they are indistinguishable from the possibly illiterate women-folk of schoolmasters and so the degree of advance in this important guide to the development of female education is unknown. Whether the number of female medical practitioners and vaccinators is appreciably increasing is a matter of doubt, yet these and a dozen other similar questions, which the old method of enumerating occupations would fairly accurately answer, have been left in utter uncertainty, when every girl and every woman is entered under the occupation of the man who supports her."

61. In these circumstances it would serve no useful purpose to scrutinise the occupations of females. The statistics of male occupations are disorganised to a less extent, and the report contains several elaborate tables setting forth

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the leading points ascertained by the enumerators. Taking the figures for what they are worth, the following table gives the totals of the seven great classes by sex in the Lower Provinces:—

Occupations.	Eastern Territory.				Feudatory States.	
	Urban.		Rural.			
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Class A— Government	75,057	37,977	209,247	201,276	21,636	17,796
Class B— Pasture and agriculture	228,016	353,295	29,978,187	32,546,456	1,122,119	1,093,641
Class C— Personal services	238,752	184,306	1,070,878	1,007,815	25,035	51,707
Class D— Preparation and supply of material substances	267,305	302,754	4,095,638	4,226,203	161	103,409
Class E— Commerce, transport, and storage	225,081	120,274	896,537	704,548	19,076	4,797
Class F— Professions	127,310	96,3[illegible]	580,644	455,002	21,311	12,761
Class G— Indefinite and independent	346,903	237,052	4,270,907	1,942,245	23,[illegible]	215,113
Total	1,508,224	1,[illegible],[illegible]	33,638,038	84,248,638	1,560,593	1,[illegible],[illegible]

62. The pursuits of the inhabitants of Bengal are shown to be as largely agricultural as before. Among the rural population as many as 65·61 per cent. are employed in agriculture, and even in towns the percentage is as high as 16·77. In villages the indefinite class comes next, with 12·01 [illegible] followed by those engaged in preparing food and drink, who amount to 4·54 per cent. of the total. In the towns naturally the disproportion is not so marked, pressing closely on the 16·77 per cent. employed in agriculture follow 15·[illegible] per cent. in the indefinite class, 12·54 per cent. employed in personal, household and sanitary service, and 10·19 per cent. who supply food and drink, manufactures, commerce, transport and the liberal professions all returning a proportion not more than 5 per cent. Much was expected from the statistics of occupations connected with interest in land, to which attention was drawn more than twenty years ago by Sir G. Campbell; but it was found that the terms employed were so numerous, and that the same terms bore in different areas meanings so discrepant that nothing but very wide grouping was possible. So again at the 5th census the attempt was for the first time made to ascertain what number of persons, and of what pursuits, supplement their earnings by profits derived from some interest in land. The results form Imperial Table XVIIC., and are reported to be fairly correct for twenty-one districts, well distributed over the province.

63. The whole of the operations of the census, with the exception of those relating to the census of Calcutta, were from the first conducted by Mr. O'Donnell, and the Lieutenant-Governor cordially acknowledges the ability and assiduity which he has brought to bear upon his important duties, and the general success with which his task has been discharged. A great mass of valuable information has been collected with economy and despatch, and the results have been set forth in a careful, painstaking and interesting report. Sir Antony MacDonnell has read with pleasure the testimony which the Census Superintendent bears to the willing help rendered to him by district officials not only in carrying out the elaborate arrangements which preceded the actual enumeration, but in supervising the compilation of the district figures when the enumeration was completed. These additional duties cast a heavy burden on many overworked District Officers, and the Lieutenant-Governor desires once more to express his acknowledgments to them for the loyalty with which these duties were discharged. He has already acknowledged the obligations of the Government to the numerous non-official persons who have also assisted in this great work. Mr. Lewis, the Superintendent of Government Printing, Bengal, is again mentioned in terms of praise for the excellence and rapidity with which the Press performed the heavy task involved in the preparation and despatch of myriads of enumeration books and compilation forms for so many districts. The Assistant Superintendent of Census Operations, whose services have also been brought specially to the notice of Government, has already been rewarded by promotion to an appointment in Assam.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

J. A. BOURDILLON,

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

C. L. O. & W. M. D'C.—Reg. No. 28060 – 252 – 27.7.91.